

IN THE CLAIMS

1-96. (Cancelled)

97. (Previously presented) An apparatus for measuring progress and time of completion of an assay for an analyte, comprising:

- (a) an assay device comprising:
 - (i) a reaction chamber comprising an optically detectable label, and
 - (ii) at least one diagnostic lane comprising at least one assay zone configured to bind said analyte and at least one timing zone separate from the assay zone, wherein said diagnostic lane is in fluid communication with said reaction chamber, and wherein, when fluid is added to said reaction chamber, said detectable label flows with said fluid to said at least one diagnostic lane to contact said at least one timing zone;
- (b) an optical component configured to detect an optical signal generated from said label in said at least one timing zone and generate an electronic signal in response; and
- (c) a signal processor configured to receive said electronic signal and to determine said progress and time of completion of said assay for said analyte in said assay device from at least one parameter selected from the group consisting of a rate of change of the amount of said electronic signal and an amount of said electronic signal;

wherein the label is attached to a first member of a binding pair that binds to a second member of the binding pair that is bound to said at least one timing zone of said at least one diagnostic lane.

98. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 97, wherein one or both of said first and second members of the binding pair is an antibody.

99-104. (Cancelled)

105. (Previously presented) A kit for measuring progress and time of completion of an assay for an analyte, comprising:

- (a) at least one set of instructions for measuring said progress and time of completion; and

(b) an apparatus for measuring progress and time of completion of an assay for an analyte, comprising:

(i) an assay device comprising:

a reaction chamber comprising an optically detectable label, and
at least one diagnostic lane comprising at least one assay zone configured
to bind said analyte and at least one timing zone separate from the assay
zone,

wherein said diagnostic lane is in fluid communication with said reaction
chamber, and wherein, when fluid is added to said reaction chamber, said
detectable label flows with said fluid to said at least one diagnostic lane to
contact said at least one timing zone;

(ii) an optical component configured to detect an optical signal generated from
said label in said at least one timing zone and generate an electronic signal
in response; and

(iii) a signal processor configured to receive said electronic signal and to
determine said progress and time of completion of said assay for said
analyte in said assay device from at least one parameter selected from the
group consisting of a rate of change of the amount of said electronic signal
and an amount of said electronic signal;

wherein the label is attached to a first member of a binding pair that binds to a second
member of the binding pair that is bound to said at least one timing zone of said at least
one diagnostic lane.

106. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 105, wherein one or both of said first and
second members of the binding pair is an antibody.

107-118. (Cancelled)

119. (Previously presented) An apparatus for measuring progress and time of completion of
an assay for an analyte, comprising:

(a) an assay device comprising:

(i) a reaction chamber, and

(ii) at least one diagnostic lane comprising at least one assay zone configured
to bind said analyte and at least one timing zone separate from the assay

zone, wherein said diagnostic lane is in fluid communication with said reaction chamber, and wherein, when fluid and a detectable label are added to said reaction chamber, said detectable label flows with said fluid to said at least one diagnostic lane to contact said at least one timing zone;

- (b) an optical component configured to detect an optical signal generated from said label in said at least one timing zone and generate an electronic signal in response; and
- (c) a signal processor configured to receive said electronic signal and to determine said progress and time of completion of said assay for said analyte in said assay device from at least one parameter selected from the group consisting of a rate of change of the amount of said electronic signal and an amount of said electronic signal;

wherein the label is attached to a first member of a binding pair that binds to a second member of the binding pair that is bound to said at least one timing zone of said at least one diagnostic lane.

120. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 119, wherein one or both of said first and second members of the binding pair is an antibody.

121-128. (Cancelled)